

NOTE ON THE GENUS *PSEUDOMALAXIS*, FISCHER, AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW SPECIES AND SUB-GENUS.

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Read 13th June, 1913.

CAREFUL attention to Dr. Fischer's diagnosis of his sub-genus *Pseudomalaxis* indicates that he did not appreciate the differences separating his selected type (*Bifrontia zanclea*, Phil.—a fossil) from the species which is found living at Madeira. The latter is characterized by the complete detachment of the whorls, a fact not mentioned by Fischer, who united the two forms. I propose, therefore, to raise *Pseudomalaxis* to generic rank (for it has no connexion with *Bifrontia*, fossil species from the Paris Basin¹), and to constitute a new sub-genus, *Spirolaxis*, for the Madeiran shell.

The European species (for I have no knowledge of the extra-European forms) will stand as follows:—

PSEUDOMALAXIS, Fischer.

Man. de Conch., 1885, p. 714.

Type, *Bifrontia zanclea*, Phil.

1. PSEUDOMALAXIS ZANCLEA (Philippi).

Bifrontia (?) *zanclea*, Phil. Enum. Moll. Sicil., vol. ii, p. 225, pl. xxviii, fig. 11.

Fossil in the Messina district; unknown in a living state.

2. PSEUDOMALAXIS ALDROVANDI (Foresti).

Solarium Aldrovandi, Foresti, Mem. Accad. Sci. Inst. Bologna, ser. II, vol. vii, pl. 625, pl. ii, figs. 17–20, 1868.

Discohelix (Pseudomalaxis) Aldovrandi [sic] (For.); Sacco, Moll. Terz. Piemonte e Liguria, pt. xii, p. 75, 1892.

Var. *Ligustica*, Sacco, l.c., pl. ii, fig. 65.

Fossil of Orciano and Zinola; extinct.

3. PSEUDOMALAXIS ACTONI, n.sp.

Pseudomalaxis, *Omalaxis*, and *Bifrontia zanclea*, auct.

Hab.—Living in the coralline zone at Naples, Palermo, Algeria, and Sardinia (coll. Monterosato).

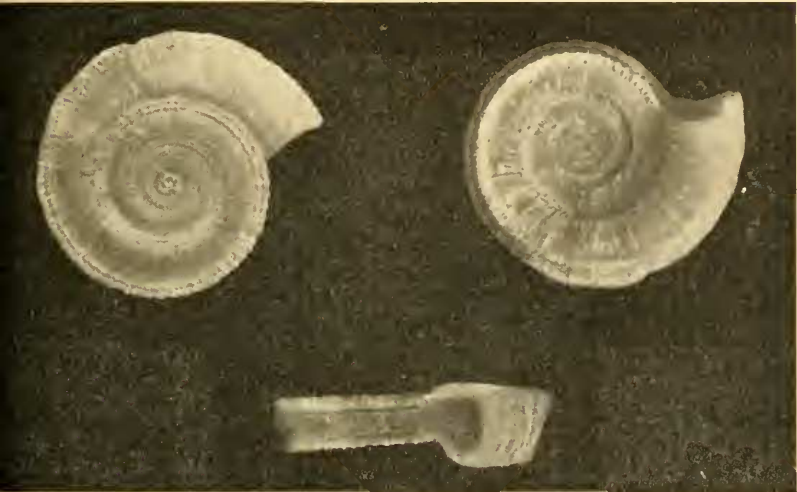
The largest species of the genus, measuring lat. 15, alt. 3 mm. Very dilated, umbilicus widely open, surface roughened, ornamented at the periphery with minute denticulations. Named in honour of Admiral G. Acton, one of the oldest conchologists, who was the first to discover it.

¹ *Bifrontia bifrons*, Deshayes.

Sub-genus *SPIROLAXIS*, n.subgen.

Shell discoidal ; whorls quadrangular, detached, solute.

The operculum is characterized by Fischer in his description of



Pseudomalaxis zanclea, of which species, occurring only in the fossil state, it is unknown.

4. *PSEUDOMALAXIS* (*SPIROLAXIS*) *CENTRIFUGA* (Monterosato).

Pseudomalaxis centrifuga, Monterosato, Nat. Sicil., Ann. ix, num. 7, p. 161, 1890 ; Boll. Soc. Mal. Ital., vol. xvii, p. 12, 1892.

Mention is made in the Nat. Sicil. of the quadrangular solute whorls and of the Madeiran habitat.

Omalaxis zanclea (non Phil.), H. & A. Adams, Gen. Rec. Moll., vol. i, p. 244, pl. xxv, fig. 9 (Madeira).

A good figure showing the characteristic separation of the whorls.

Bifrontia zanclea (non Phil.), Watson, Journ. Linn. Soc., vol. xxvi, p. 275, 1897.

Pseudomalaxis Macandrewi, Iredale, Proc. Malac. Soc., vol. ix, p. 254, 1911 (Madeira).



This species is much smaller than the others, measuring only diam. 4, alt. 1.5 mm., and the surface is almost smooth ; but under a good lens fine spiral striæ are distinctly visible in well-preserved specimens.